

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate

January 13, 1937

ACQUISITION OF 133,184 ACRES OF LAND
FOR FEDERAL WILDLIFE REFUGES APPROVED

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The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, consisting of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and Interior, Senator Pittman and Representative McReynolds, *(on Jan. 12)* has approved the acquisition by the U. S. Biological Survey of 133,184.66 acres of land in 34 migratory bird and upland game refuges. These refuges are located in New York, Texas, Virginia, Delaware, Utah, North Dakota, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Wyoming, Florida, Missouri, Washington, Minnesota, Iowa, Mississippi, Georgia, and New Mexico.

Most of the lands were approved for acquisition to consolidate areas previously approved and to bring about the complete ownership of lands useful for refuge purposes. More than 46,000 acres in one Texas project also were approved for acquisition. This land will be administered as a complete unit. It is a favorite concentration place for migratory waterfowl, and also will prove a valuable sanctuary for upland game.

Approvals include about 4,500 acres in Back Bay, Virginia, a famous spring and fall concentration place for ducks and geese in their migrations from and to their nesting grounds. This area is also in proximity to intensive shooting grounds.

An extensive area comprising about 20,000 acres of land in the Charles Sheldon Antelope Refuge in northwestern Nevada also was approved for purchase. These lands control practically all the available water supply in an otherwise

semi-arid region where water resources are extremely valuable for full utilization of open range lands which have been set aside by Executive order as an antelope refuge.

Further purchases of privately-owned lands on the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge in southeastern Oregon also were approved. These tracts control the source of water supply in the midst of 276,480 acres of public domain withdrawn by the President within recent months as a sanctuary for antelope.

Further progress also was made in the solidification of Government-owned lands by the approval for purchase of all remaining privately-owned lands within the exterior limits of the Elk Refuge in Teton County, Wyoming, popularly referred to as Jackson Hole.

Lands in the Skagit River Delta, Washington, also were taken under consideration and favorably acted upon by the Commission. This project will be an important refuge on the Pacific Coast flyway where opportunities to establish refuges are limited, although refuges are badly needed for the protection of migratory waterfowl.

A large tract of land in Montezuma Marsh in Seneca County, New York, also was considered favorably by the Commission. This migratory bird refuge is small in area as compared with major projects of the Biological Survey in other parts of the country, but because of its location and its environment it is a project of importance, providing a sanctuary for waterfowl in their migrations and during the nesting season.

This refuge is on the flyway between James Bay, an estuary of Hudson Bay, and Chesapeake Bay, and is not far from the Great Lakes and also the Finger Lakes in New York, over which migratory birds travel in flying to the southern wintering grounds on the South Atlantic coast.